Twitter Thread by Hilary Sargent



Hilary Sargent
@lilsarg

Let’s talk about how you can alert law enforcement to crimes, and what constitutes something you might consider reporting, and what likely doesn’t. Im not saying anyone SHOULD do this. But everyone should know how to do it, and clearly people don’t.

First and foremost, do not tag law enforcement agencies on Twitter as a way of reporting ANYTHING. It doesn’t work. Also, tweeting or RT-ing a screenshot is not an effective means of alerting law enforcement.

If you want to tip federal law enforcement, you have a couple of options. If it relates to the J6 Capitol events, there’s a website where you can upload photos and video. (There’s also a toll free number if your uploads exceed the limit.)
https://t.co/eEviPTZYfM

If you have a tip that’s not related to the J6 events, you have other options. You can call the FBI, and give your tip by phone, with or without your name.
https://t.co/WGEgksBgbp

Or you can use the FBI website to submit it online (again, with or without your name). Here’s the landing page.
https://t.co/X7Tl2I6sbm

But what should you alert law enforcement about? Well, that’s your call. People have suggested to me that they’ve been reporting things that simply don’t constitute crimes. MAGA flags aren’t, unless someone hits you in the head with one, which is.

Being racist or antisemitic or homophobic or misogynistic online may well constitute a violation of a site or app’s terms of service. But those things are not against the law. Plotting violence, inciting violence, direct threats, domestic terrorism — those are crimes.

You can also alert local law enforcement. Use Google to figure out how. Google is helpful.

Anyway, I’m not urging anyone to report anything. But seriously don’t assume your tweet about it means the right person will see it. And absolutely do not tag law enforcement on Twitter in lieu of actually reporting something you think is evidence of a

crime.

Okay please don’t send me angry tweets about how you think the FBI should read your very important tweets. They don’t. And also I don’t make the rules. And also,